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THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1912.

DIRECT LEGISLATION LEAGUE'S PUBLIC UTILITIES MEASURE

A FEW days ago The Gazette published an editorial pointing out the deficiencies of the measure to establish a public utilities court being initiated by the Direct Legislation League. In this issue an Open Parliament letter appears, signed by Claude E. Street, State Oil Inspector, taking exception to some of the points made in the article referred to.

Mr. Street has misconstrued or misunderstood several of the arguments in the editorial which he attacks. First, in regard to the provision that the appointments to the public utilities court are to be made immediately upon the passage of the amendment being initiated by the outgoing Governor. The measure provides that terms of the office of the commissioners shall be two years and two months, four years and two months, and six years and two months. Mr. Street asks, "do you want the incoming Governor to have three more appointments in order that he may, if he so desires, use them to help construct a political machine?" No, nor do we want the outgoing Governor to construct a political machine. We are opposed to political machines and that is the reason why we oppose a bill with an unusual provision (i. e. and two months) that gives all the power to one Governor. Why not let the terms expire so that the incoming Governor, whoever he may be, can appoint at least one commissioner?

Second, in regard to the power given to the court to draw money from the treasury on its own requisition. We object to giving such power to a court as irresponsible as the court provided for.

Third, the measure provides that no person shall be appointed as commissioner who within five years of his appointment, shall have been a stockholder, bondholder or attorney, or, or actively interested in, any public utilities corporation. Other public utilities laws provide that no person shall be appointed who at the time of his appointment or during his term shall hold securities or be connected with any public utilities corporation. The latter provision is a reasonable one, but why should a commissioner be prohibited from holding such securities for five years previous to the appointment?

Fourth, we object to allowing the court to establish by published rule or order exceptions from the pass, rebate, and equal service provisions. This gives to the court unusual and arbitrary powers which are granted to no public utilities commission in the country. The anti-pass laws of the various states, as well as the Federal anti-pass clause, specifically state that passes shall not be given to any person except those specified in the law. The commissions operating under those laws have no power except to carry out specific provisions. They do not have legislative powers such as those given to Mr. Street's public utilities court.

Fifth, Mr. Street says that the members of the public utilities court could be recalled by the provisions of the recall amendment being circulated by the Direct Legislation League (which, by the way, is not as yet the law of Colorado). The recall amendment provides that to recall an officer a petition must be signed "by electors entitled to vote for a successor of the incumbent sought to be recalled equal in number to 25 per cent of the entire vote cast at the last preceding election for all candidates for the position which the incumbent sought to be recalled occupies." Later the bill states that appointive officers "shall be subject to the recall provision of this constitution." How would you go to work, Mr. Street, to recall an appointive officer under this measure? Who are the "electors entitled to vote for a successor" of a member of the public utilities court?

Finally, there is no commission in the country whose powers are not specifically stated in the law establishing the commission. No public utilities commission or court is given power to supervise any corporation "engaged in anything which said court may declare to be a public service."

FOREST CONSERVATION

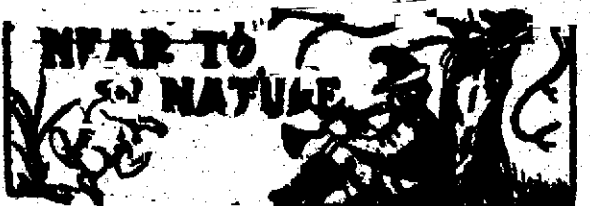
IN THE extent of its forests the United States is the second country in the world. It is exceeded in this respect only by Russia. In this country today there are 545,000,000 acres of forest which are owned in three ways, by the federal government, by the various states and by private owners. It will surprise many people to learn that only 100,000,000 acres of forest land is owned by the federal government. That owned by the states is 3,000,000 acres, the remaining 445,000,000 acres, or about 80 per cent, being in the hands of individuals or corporations.

The conservation of all the forests is a matter of national importance, not only as the source of supply of lumber but also to conserve the water supply and to prevent the heavy spring rains from taking the winter snows off in great floods which waste much valuable water and do a vast amount of damage by causing the rivers to overflow their banks and destroy property of all kinds. Until recent years the privately owned forests were all operated so as to bring in the greatest immediate returns but of late years some of the owners have begun to see that it is money in their pockets in the long run to conduct their lumbering in such a manner as to preserve their forests rather than to destroy them. In the government forests it is practicable to insist upon proper methods of cutting, but these forests are only a small part of the whole and it is somewhat difficult to control the operations on the private forests. It can be done in a measure by state laws similar to those regulating other industries, but the best and surest way is by the educational campaigns that have been and are being carried on. Once make a man see that it is to his financial advantage to lumber scientifically and he at once becomes a believer in science.

The forest wealth of a country is not necessarily measured by the area of its forests for the reason that some trees are much more valuable than others. The conifers, pine, spruce, hemlock, and so on, are the most valuable woods in a commercial sense, and more of this species is used for structural purposes than of any of the hard woods. The hard woods need more soil and more room to grow. For this reason in the regions to which they are indigenous the land is, as the country settles up, needed for agricultural purposes and the forests are relegated to the poorer soils which are better suited to the conifers and where the hard woods will not grow to advantage. In some cases in our northeastern states thousands of acres of good hemlock forest have been destroyed by reckless cutting and unnecessary forest fires and have been replaced by scrubby oaks of little or no commercial value.

The annual consumption of wood in the United States, according to the Department of Agriculture, amounts to 23,000,000,000 cubic feet. This is a much greater quantity than is used in any other country. Lumbering in general in this country is carried on in a perfectly reckless manner and if not generally improved the supply of lumber will, sooner or later, be exhausted. As stated above, scientific methods will not only prevent the total destruction of the forests but will improve them and keep them continuously productive. This may not bring in such large immediate returns as the more wasteful methods but will insure the continuity of the returns.

One of the chief points insisted upon by the scientific foresters is the gathering up into piles of the "tops and tops" instead of leaving them anywhere that the felled trees happen to be when trimmed into saw logs. This refuse, when not taken care of, is especially favorable to the starting and propagation of forest fires. Much has been done toward the control of the fires which are the most destructive of any of the various agencies that are gradually extinguishing our forests. Even the most rabid of the anti-conservationists are willing to allow the Forest Service some credit for the excellent work that it has done toward fighting fires. Its organization enables it to get promptly to the scene of a fire and the training of the men teaches them how best to attack it. It is not likely that forest fires ever can be entirely eliminated, but by active co-operation between the government, the states and the people in general they can be carefully watched for and put out before they gain the headway that makes their extinguishment almost impossible.



THE EMOTIONAL ADVENTURES OF CORA.

From the Distant (d.) Reporter.
As will be noticed by the customers of the O. K. Restaurant Cora Gever is back on duty again after a two weeks' vacation. She has been feeling rather down-hearted and blue but her spirits soared Sunday, and Monday morning found her back at her usual work.

THE SECOND POST

Received by a magneto company.
Yours of the 29th arrived to day I went to the P. O. Asked for the Name you Mentioned in your Letter but nothing there I was Badly disappointed as My car has bin Disabled Quite A while for the Piece And it seems that I cannot get a Piece Extra in This Country. But as you was kind enough to send the Piece with out Advance Charges and trying to Accommodate me by shipping please I dont Feel a you ought to loose it So will in close R. O. money Order for 5.00 hoping it will turn up Some Day. But in the Mean time my Care is Deader than door nail

Center shots

By ED HOWE.

Your working hours have been reduced to eight hours for the favor, don't waste time during the eight hours you are on duty.

When the guests at a dinner are well acquainted they eat 20 per cent more than they do when they are strangers to each other.



A farmer's idea of real high living is an "over stew."

When a man begins telling a long, dull story, a good way to say, "I've heard it," and hurry on.

People leave things out in the rain, and then complain that nothing is as well made in these degenerate days as in the good old times.

It always makes a furniture man mad for loafers to sit in the chairs displayed in front of his store.

A girl visitor never has better clothes at home than she has with her.

People always say that while their old piano doesn't look very well, it has a very sweet tone.

Some men are polite when you bother them, even though they are very busy; but they hate you just the same for bothering them.

Nothing pleases a woman quite so well as to look so sweet that a man wants to kiss her, and then abuse him for his impudence.

The High Low Price

By RUTH CAMERON.

There is a certain condition of modern business against which I wish the women of this country would in some way protest, and that is the influx of articles, which, though good enough to all outward appearance, are so cheaply made that they are almost entirely useless for practical purposes.

For instance, I tried five matches the other day before I found one which would accomplish the purpose for which matches are presumably made. The first two broke, the third had no phosphorus, and from the fourth and fifth the phosphorus snapped off in the last instant alighting on my hand and burning itself out there, a happening which did not improve my opinion of cheap matches.

Again, I am constantly finding blotters that do not make any pretense of blotting, at least not in the desirable sense of the word—they certainly blot things in the other sense. Sometimes the reverse side is elaborately decorated, but the blotter side is absolutely useless. And when I am ready to blot a letter, it is not a blotter, it is a piece of paper that I want, but a blotter.

How often we find envelopes which have no intention whatever of being stuck together. The glue upon them is so scarce or of such inferior quality that it is impossible to make the envelope actually envelope anything, without an auxiliary in the shape of some more glue or a dab of sealing wax.

And surely you have noticed how much more easily the pencils of the present day break than those which we used to buy 10 or 20 years ago. Why, I have often seen a pencil break so many times during a single attempt to sharpen it that half the pencil was consumed that way. Very good business for the manufacturer, but not so good for that unfortunate under dog, the consumer. These are a few examples of the cheap, well appearing, but practically futile articles, with which the markets are so flooded nowadays. Doubtless you can add many other examples from your own experience.

When the manufacturers of a century ago produced the wooden nutmeg, the joke went round the world, and "nutmeg" received a nickname that will probably last her for life. Today we have many articles that are just as much "jokes," as far as utility is concerned, as the nutmeg, but we don't nickname any states for them—they are too common.

Now to mention is one of the most pernicious manifestations of the high cost of living. To pay 20 per cent more than you did 10 years ago for a substantial and desirable article is bad enough. But to pay the shoddy made that it is worth next to nothing is really far worse.

What can women do about all this, you ask? Well, they simply use the only weapon left to the consumer, they can refuse to consume. They can denounce the shoddy article to the retail shopkeeper, so that he, in his turn, will denounce it to the wholesaler, and who knows but that in the course of time the manufacturers might get the idea that shoddy goods are not wanted. They can buy the substantial article even if it does cost a little more. Believe me, it will not be more expensive in the end.

Shoddiness and cheapness—not inexpensiveness, mind you, but the cheapness which is most costly in the end—are the curses of the age. Let us protest against them in every way we can think of.



OPEN PARLIAMENT

REGARDING THE PROPOSED PUBLIC UTILITIES COURT.

To the Editor of The Gazette.
In your issue of Wednesday, May 29, in the editorial headed "Two Vicious Bills," you undertake to point out why the citizens of this state should not sign the petitions for, and support the proposed amendment to the constitution creating a Public Utilities Court.

We find common ground for agreement against the proposed Public Utilities Commission bill, which is being circulated by certain men connected with organized labor at the instance of the Public Utility corporations of this state, according to the best information I am able to gather.

In regard to the proposed amendment to create a Public Utilities Court, I beg leave to take the position that it is a fair and just bill, without any jokers, and should be supported by the people.

If you will permit me, I will undertake to point out the inconsistencies, as well as inaccuracies in your editorial opposing this measure.

First, you oppose it for the reason that it directs the present Governor to appoint the first three members of the court. You say you believe that the incoming administration should make the appointment. In turn, I desire to ask you why—in the best you want the incoming Governor to have three more appointments in order that he may, if he so desires, use them to help construct a political machine? If you are opposed to political machines, as I believe you are, then why do you want the incoming Governor to have three more appointments in order that he may, if he so desires, use them to help construct a political machine? I believe that the present Gov-

ernor is as well equipped to make fair and competent appointments as anyone who may possibly be elected next fall. The outgoing Governor could have no incentive to make appointments that would bring credit to him, any more than the incoming Governor.

I am informed by some members of the committee that drafted this clause, that when the clause was in process of drafting, the Republican convention was being held in Colorado Springs, where the progressives were steam-rolled in a neat and expeditious manner. It was also well known to the committee that the reactionaries were in control of the party organization of the Democrats. Therefore they concluded that it would be more in the interest of the common good to take a chance on the appointment being made by the present Governor, who is a known progressive, rather than to take a chance on the appointment being made by a reactionaries.

Your next objection was that the court has power, on its own requisition, to draw money from the treasury without an appropriation by the legislature. This clause was deliberately written in that manner for the reason that it is a well established historical fact that most of the legislatures have time and again refused to appropriate money for departments and commissions that developed progressive tendencies, such as the civil service commission, which was refused an appropriation, and the bank commission, who was cut off with a wholly inadequate sum of money.

Again, you object to the section that says, no person shall be eligible for appointment who has, within five years, been a stockholder, bondholder, attorney or actively interested in a public utility corporation. It is a well known fact that the great majority of men are biased in their views favorable to those things or institutions in which they have a vested interest. In most instances, jurors are excluded from juries if it is shown that they are in any way connected, either financially or otherwise, with the case under trial. I will answer your question by asking why the same rule should not be applied to members of courts and commissions? I do not believe there are 50,000 people in the state who own stocks or bonds, or are actively connected with public service corporations, and if such be the case, there are at least 150,000 people left from which three judges may be chosen.

Again, you disapprove this bill, because it allows the court to establish by published rule or order, exceptions to the anti-pass clause. Your argument to sustain your objection to this provision, is founded on two misstatements of facts. First, you say that the members of the court could make exceptions, and therefore allow passes to whom they pleased, and that the members of the court are not subject to the recall. If you will read the latter portion of section 4, of the proposed recall amendment, you will see that it says, "Every person having authority to exercise, or who exercises any public or governmental duty, power or function, shall be an elective officer, or one appointed, drawn or designated in accordance with law, by an elective officer or officers."

The Democratic convention met in Baltimore on June 1; the Whig convention in the same city on June 16. This was the last presidential year in which the convention of both principal parties were held in Baltimore, and it marks the end of Baltimore's preeminence as the convention city.

The Democrats met and as all of them were content to abide by the compromise of 1850—a measure born in the brain of Henry Clay and pushed through Congress by President Fillmore—as the final settlement of the slavery question, there was little difficulty in effecting an organization. The Barnburner, or Free Soil, movement had collapsed, the Abolitionists were denouncing the constitution, and it was not good for a responsible man to invite trouble by reopening this vexatious question. Therefore, the Democratic convention was harmonious.

This was the first national convention called to order by the chairman of the national committee, who was B. F. Hallett of Massachusetts. It was the first convention called by a national committee, and the first of which the temporary list of delegates was made up by the national committee. It represents for the first time the organization of a national convention on the plan still prevailing in both the principal political parties, with the exception that the number of votes was then equal to the number of electors instead of being twice as many as the electors, as it is according to the present system.

Dark Horse Was Inevitable.
Its only question was whom to nominate for president. Lewis Cass, who had been defeated four years before, was the principal candidate, but even he could not muster a majority, much less the two-thirds required. James Buchanan of Pennsylvania, Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, and William L. Marcy of New York, were the other prominent candidates. From the first it was predicted that none of these could win, and that a dark horse was inevitable.

The Democrats believed that the Whigs would nominate General Scott, and, as they had met defeat in two campaigns by Whig war horses, they were anxious, if possible, to nominate a war hero themselves to oppose Scott.

There was a boom for Sam Houston, then a senator from Texas, who had been governor of Tennessee; who had led the rebellious Texans in their notorious fight against Mexico, and who had been president of the republic of Texas. But Houston had lately become a Prohibitionist, and that made it impossible to nominate him. For several days before the convention met suggestions had been made in the newspapers that Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire, who had distinguished himself as a brigadier-general in the Mexican war, might be the compromise candidate. On the thirty-fifth ballot the Virginia delegation cast its vote solidly for Pierce. A New Hampshire delegate, wild with excitement, invited the people in the galleries to join in the cheering. They accepted with alacrity, despite the fact that heretofore, even in the most exciting moments, the galleries never had been permitted to express approval or disapproval of anything transpiring in a convention.

Inaugurated "Demonstrations."

Thus was begun the first convention

POKER GAMES RAIDED

DENVER, June 5.—Forty-two poker games were closed in Denver last night upon orders of Felix O'Neill, the newly appointed chief of police. Organizations like the Gentlemen's Riding and Driving Club and the Denver Motor club were told that they would no longer be permitted to allow poker playing in their rooms.

The cleanup included places in the foreign quarters and in "Hop alley," the Chinese section of Denver's tenderloin. Gamblers were told that they might as well get rid of their paraphernalia as their rooms would be kept shut and that prosecution would follow upon the first violation.

Genuine Croft Pictures are sold only at this store.

There is a difference.

HARDY'S
16 North Tejon



THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY

The board of trustees of the Home for Friendless Children held its regular meeting at the Y. M. C. A. room. There were 22 inmates of the home, which was in a very satisfactory condition.

Pikes Peak was free from clouds for the first time in over a week. There was said to be more snow on it than at any time during the previous winter.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY

J. C. Bland, who was supervising engineer for the Huerfano street viaduct, stated to the city council that progress was being made in letting subcontracts and getting out the iron work, and that work on the masonry would begin about the first of July.

There was considerable sickness in Cripple Creek due to the fact that there was no pure water supply and no regular method of disposing of garbage. A mass meeting appointed a board of health with power to improve matters as they saw fit.

THE HASKIN LETTER

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS. IX—THE END OF THE WHIGS.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

In 1852 the Whig party again sacrificed principle to expediency in order to nominate a war hero for president and to win, as it vainly hoped, a third victory. But Winfield Scott was not destined to succeed Harrison and Taylor, and in the election he was overcome by the second dark horse of our political history—Franklin Pierce. The Democratic convention met in Baltimore on June 1; the Whig convention in the same city on June 16. This was the last presidential year in which the convention of both principal parties were held in Baltimore, and it marks the end of Baltimore's preeminence as the convention city.

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Letter Helped Bring Disaster.

When the nomination was made, Senator Jones of Tennessee, that "Lean Jimmy" Jones, who had twice defeated James K. Polk for governor, leaped to the platform with a letter from General Scott. It was a letter of acceptance, couched in less than a hundred words, pledging loyalty and exclusive support to the platform. As it had been written before the platform was made, or the nomination decided, the all too sudden letter helped to bring on the disaster that met the Whig ticket.

General Scott, several years before, had affiliated with the "Native Sons" of Pennsylvania, to the extent of writing letters attacking the Catholics and opposing the foreign element in politics. These old letters the Democrats used against him with great effect. General Scott took the stump himself, and although he talked much of the "rich Irish brogue" and the "sweet German accent" of some of his hearers, he could not win back the "foreign vote." His campaign soon collapsed, and long before the election it was realized that Pierce would be elected.

End of the Whig Party.

The election of 1852 had been the first in which the presidential electors had been chosen in all of the states on the same day—the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November—and the election of 1852 was the first in which the telegraph wires were extended that the result of the election was known the next day. Pierce carried all but four of the 31 states in the Union, losing only in Massachusetts.

(Continued on Page Six)

